

ADVICE ABOUT TOBACCO RAISING.

Mr. Moye Submits Some Suggestions for Farmers of the Wilmington District—The Delightful Life of Those Who Grow the Weed.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

In Harry Farmer's last article to your paper he refers to efforts that are being put forth to induce the farmers near Wilmington to embark in the cultivation of tobacco.

The person who is chief instigator in this movement is surely holding out false hopes to these farmers. Unless he has a patented furnace six-inch pipes will not do, as all old tobacco raisers and curers very well know. It is quite a different thing drying the air in a comparatively empty room to drying the air in a sixteen-foot cube filled with green tobacco. It takes no more wood and no more fire to keep the temperature to 175 degrees after the tobacco is comparatively dry than it does to keep it at 120 to 130 degrees when you are drying out the sap. By actual experience a twelve-inch flue is small enough and it will be economy to begin right.

He is also misleading them as to prices. Few, very few, fine wrappers will be raised and very few of these will bring fancy prices. I live in a splendid tobacco district as is evidenced by ninety-nine hundredths of the farmers raising the weed—and not one farmer in ten ever gets a pile of tobacco to bring even fifty cents per pound. A great many more farmers will get an eight to ten cent average than will get over that. I saw on my home market very good wrappers sell for 12½ cents per pound. It is true some few piles of extra fine wrappers sold for forty and one pile brought fifty, but a great many more piles brought five than fifty.

The worst of it is, tobacco is decreasing in price every day. Tobacco is selling for at least twenty-five per cent less now than the middle of October. On our market last Friday upon some of the floors only two buyers were in attendance, and they practically both belong to the same concern. The American and Imperial tobacco companies are at present monopolizing the entire trade. All grades of tobacco are lower on all these eastern markets. How low it will go we do not know.

If these farmers are doing fairly well now, they will profit by letting tobacco alone. We farmers and landlords have made money for the last two years. Still there are drawbacks. The first year in tobacco, even if a good year, all the surplus earning must go to build barns and storage houses, getting sticks, paying expert curers and graders, etc.

With either a wet year or very dry one a profitable crop is rarely gathered. You must nurse this crop as you would a sick baby from the first of February until the first of September. Everything must be neglected for it. You must work night and day, rain or shine. All must work, men, women, boys and girls. If you have two hundred acres of land and a fine house, your wife and girls for

at least two months must labor in the field—just the same as a disfranchised free negro. After you house it if you have not the right kind of a house or if it has not been properly dried, you may and probably will lose it. Then when you carry it to market you will have the grim satisfaction of paying from five to seven per cent to have the American Tobacco Company price it for you.

There are some compensations. You can get to go to town and eat barbecue at forty cents per pound or eat fried fish and drink poor coffee for 15 cents a snack. You can sit up all night at the warehouse and crack jokes with some stranger perhaps. If you are a drinking man, along about two o'clock in the morning you will be getting pretty dry unless the stranger has his bottle full, for yours will be empty long before that good hour. You will surely be too poor to lodge at a hotel unless the warehouseman gives you lodging free. The festive drummer will be your dear friend until your tobacco is sold. He will visit you in season and out of season. His especial market is the best in the world and his house the best house in this best market.

Finally, my brethren, if you wish to spend your year in severe toil for the especial benefit of two of these gigantic aggregations of capital called (for the want of a more appropriate name) trusts, then by all means plant tobacco and plant largely. The Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company and the American Tobacco Company will take exquisite pleasure in gathering in the cash whether you prosper or not.

Brother farmers, do you relish this dish of "crow?" They price your guano and they price your tobacco. What do you price?

ABRAM J. MOYE.

Pitt Co., N. C.

Opportunities in the South.

The great need of the South in agriculture is, as everybody knows, diversification. More specifically, and as an aid and adjunct to the raising of other crops than cotton and corn, an immense multiplication of its live-stock seems to be the first improvement in order, accompanied by a wider cultivation of forage and similar plants, and perhaps, the introduction of new varieties, not merely for the sake of feeding animals, but as creators of humus and gatherers of nitrogen. * * * Beef production, however, can unquestionably be carried on to a vast extent, and in fact, a considerable beginning has been made already.—Gilbert M. Tucker of Albany, N. Y.

According to the Annual Wool Review for 1902, just issued, there are 42,184,122 sheep in the United States, exclusive of lambs under one year old, and the clip, exclusive of the pulled wool, during the last year, comprised 274,321,032 pounds, as against 265,502,328 pounds in 1901. This shows an increase of about 9,000,000 pounds. The number of sheep reported a year ago was 41,920,900. The only States which show any considerable increase in number of sheep since 1901 are Kentucky, Montana and Wyoming.

North Carolina Farming Notes.

Goldsboro Headlight: The finest crop of peanuts we have yet heard of was grown on the plantation of O'Berry Bros., by Mr. John Anderson—600 bushels on six acres, notwithstanding the dry weather damaged them some.

Troy Examiner: Mr. J. A. Morris, of the Uwharrie section, is the crack-a-jack farmer of the county, so far as we have heard. With only one horse, he has made during the last year seven bales of cotton and 335 bushels of corn. This is the kind of farming that pays.

High Point Enterprise: Shepard Mountain is to be used by Mr. W. G. Brokaw, the owner, as a goat ranch. Last Saturday night a car load of Angora goats arrived here and were immediately sent to the mountain, where they were liberated. The experiment will be watched with a great deal of interest.

Lumberton Robesonian: Mr. J. Hammond, of Echo, who was a visitor at this office while in town Friday, reports fine crops and says that the farmers in the vicinity of Echo were never in better shape. He is another of our progressive young farmers who have demonstrated that tobacco is the money crop for this county.

Monroe Enquirer: Mr. W. W. Kiser, of Providence township, Mecklenburg county, was in town last Monday and reported that crops in his section are turning out a great deal better than it was thought they would a few weeks ago. Mr. Kiser says that he has made twenty-eight bales of cotton and 325 bushels of corn on a two-horse farm.

In Winston during November the shipments of manufactured tobacco this month aggregated 1,602,365 pounds. The stamp sales, or revenue collections, were \$110,254.82. The leaf sales were 4,674,553 pounds, for which farmers received \$491,503.57, an average of 10½ cents per pound. The sales for October and November aggregated 9,739,553 pounds, which brought \$1,061,682.21.

Smithfield Herald: Mr. M. P. Lassiter, of Elevation township, farms for a profit. He raised this year seventeen bales of cotton on thirteen acres. On three acres of this land he raised six thousand pounds of seed cotton. He broke his land ten inches deep and run his rows four feet apart. He put in the rows a small quantity of stable manure and six hundred pounds of fertilizer per acre. He used one hundred pounds cerealite as a top manuring about July 1st.

Washington Post: "Prosperity is the rule and adversity the exception in North Carolina these days," remarked that distinguished son of the Old North State, Col. A. B. Andrews, First Vice-President of the Southern Railway, at the Raleigh. "Our farmers, owing to the favorable season, have made more cotton than they expected and are getting a fairly good price for it. Our tobacco growers are feeling in good

spirits because of fine crops and high prices. In addition, all the industries of the State are on a good paying basis. Altogether, there is a most auspicious outlook for the continuation of the good times and solid development of the State."

Newton Enterprise: Mr. M. M. Cline has cribbed this year 2,640 bushels of corn, and says he has the prettiest wheat he ever saw at this time of the year.—We have in the office now a radish that is a radish. It weighs 12 pounds, is 18 inches long and 23 inches in circumference.—Mr. John Sherrill brought us the top of a cotton stalk Saturday that was full of white blossoms. This has been a most remarkable fall. Good cotton could have been made on the wheat fields after harvest this year.

Duplin Journal: Holly is being shipped in large quantities from our woods to the North for Christmas decorations.—Rev. P. McIntyre will soon begin growing roses under glass, which crop is extensively profitable and yields readily \$2,500 profit per acre annually.—Magnolia is now the city of flower bulbs. Millions of tube-roses, hyacinths, caladium, canna, dahlia and other flower bulbs are being packed in the drying houses about the town. Everybody is busy as a bee and the town is moving on and upward under the whirling wheels of push, energy and progress.—Mr. Henry J. Faison has a four-acre rutabaga turnip patch which is very fine indeed and is yielding 500 bushels to the acre. This crop is most profitable for milch cows, cattle and hogs, and also for local markets. He presented the Journal with one that actually weighed nine pounds and two ounces, the biggest ye scribe ever saw. These turnips are gathered, tops cut and banked like potatoes and keep well during the winter.

Dr. Cooper Curtice, for some time State Veterinarian of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, sends us the following notice regarding the poultry school that he has charge of:

The sixth annual poultry class of the Rhode Island Agricultural College, Kingston, Rhode Island, will meet on January 7, 1903, and continue for six weeks.

The course of instruction will, as usual, include lectures, practical work and excursions to the Boston Show and successful poultry plants. Lectures will be given by members of the faculty and by well-known experts in the poultry world. Practice will be given in planning poultry houses, incubation, breeding, preparing for market and other matters incidental to the industry.

The usual attendance is expected. As the accommodations at the college are limited, it will be necessary for those determined to attend to apply early.

Gastonia Gazette: More wheat than usual is sown this season, and the farmers are happy to see it growing and looking so well.